

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 6-9, 13 and 15-23. Claims 3, 4, 11 and 12, which the Examiner indicated contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 (including claim 2 on which claim 3 previously depended), by rewriting claim 4 in independent form as new claim 22 (including claim 2 on which claim 4 previously depended), by amending claim 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11 (including claim 10 on which claim 11 previously depended), and by rewriting claim 12 in independent form as new claim 23 (including claim 10 on which claim 12 previously depended). Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 10-12 have been canceled, and claims 13 and 19, which previously depended on claim 10, and claim 17, which previously depended on claim 1, have been amended to depend on claim 9 as amended. These claims and claims 6-8, 15, 16, 18 and 20-21 have also been amended to improve their form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-2, 6-10, 13 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have, *inter alia*, canceled claims 2-4 and 10-12 and have amended

claims 1, 6-9, 13 and 15-21 to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on this basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 6-9, 13 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ogi U.S. Patent No. 4,261,947* in view of *Jones et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0148427*. Claims 2, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ogi* in view of *Jones et al.* and further in view of *JP 2000-145552*.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 15, 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action, and with respect to claims 3, 4, 11 and 12, if they were rewritten or amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

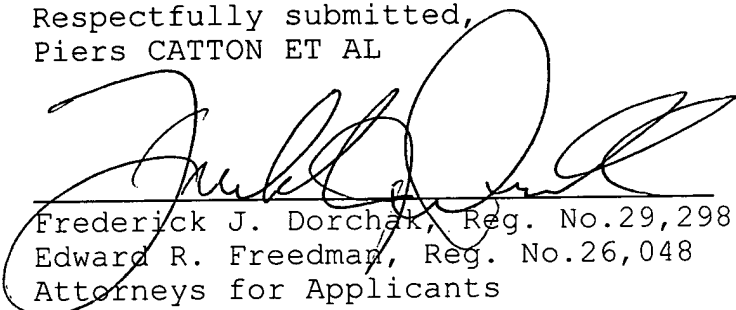
In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this

case, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 11, respectively (including the respective intervening claims on which claims 3 and 11 depended), have rewritten claims 4 and 12 in independent form as new claims 22 and 23, respectively, (including the dependent claims on which claims 4 and 12 depended), have amended claims 13, 17 and 19 to depend on claim 9, have amended the claims generally to improve their form, and have canceled claims 2-4 and 10-12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 9, 20 and 21 as amended and new claims 22 and 23, together with claims 6-8 which depend on claim 1 as amended, claims 13 and 16-19 which depend on claim 9 as amended, and claim 15 which depends on claim 21 as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1, 6-9, 13 and 15-21 have been amended, claims 2-4 and 10-12 have been canceled, and new claims 22-23 have been added. A check in the amount of \$440.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee for two (2) additional independent claim over those previously paid for. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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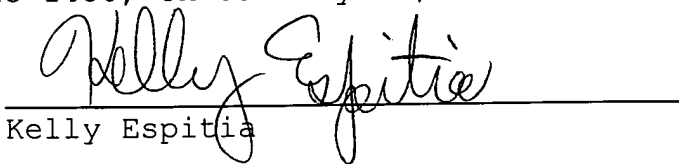
Enclosure: Check in the amount of \$440.00

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 18, 2011.

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